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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,033	04/13/2004	Kaiping Lee	IFF-79	3381
48/861	7590	04/16/2009		
INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS & FRAGRANCES INC.				
521 WEST 57TH ST				
NEW YORK, NY 10019				
EXAMINER				
GODENSCHWAGER, PETER T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1796				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/16/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,033

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

PETER F. GODENSCHWAGER

Art Unit

1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4, 5, 7-10, 27, 28, 32, 36 and 37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 11-26, 29-31 and 33-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :8/19/2004, 3/21/2005, 8/15/2005.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, drawn to a stable suspension, a method of making and a method of using a stable suspension, and Species A, drawn to polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monlaurate in the replies filed on July 1, 2008 and December 17, 2008 respectively is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the species of emulsifiers in the claimed invention does not present a search burden. This is not found persuasive because the species require a different field of search and a search for one would not necessarily reveal the others.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 4, 7-10, 27, 28, 32, and 36 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected inventions or species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the replies filed on July 1, 2008 and December 17, 2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-3, 11, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 26, 29-31, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heibel et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0045447) in view of Newell (US Pat. No. 4,374,125) and Schilling (GB Pat. No. 1,561,389).

Regarding Claims 1-3, 11, 14, 15, and 29-31: Heibel et al. teaches a composition comprising 80-96% of a non-confined liquid phase (water, a solvent) comprising a fragrance agent that does not comprise solid particles, and 4-20% of encapsulating shell material (microcapsules) with a diameter of 0.9 to 10 microns and is composed of a polymer, where the microcapsules comprise a liquid core comprising a perfume in 1-50%. ([0030]-[0037], [0042]) Heibel et al. further teaches the active agent/perfume is emulsified (an emulsifier) ([0037]).

Heibel et al. does not teach that the emulsifier in 0.5% to 100%, 1% to about 10%, or 2.5% by weight of the perfume. However, it is common practice in the art to optimize result effective variables such as the amount of emulsifier in an emulsion. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to optimize the relative amount of emulsifier and would have been motivated to do so render the most stable emulsion.

Heibel et al. does not teach that the emulsifier is polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate. However, Newell teaches the use of TWEEN 20 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate) as a perfume solubilizer (emulsifier) in an aqueous composition (2:10-15 and 3:50-60). Heibel et al. and Newell are analogous art because they are concerned with solving a problem of similar technical difficulty, namely incorporation of perfumes into aqueous compositions. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the TWEEN 20 (polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate) of Newell in the composition of Heibel et al. and would have been motivated to do so because Newell teaches that it is effective in solubilizing perfumes in aqueous compositions (2:10-15 and 3:50-60) and Heibel et al. teaches that emulsifiers are present in the composition ([0037]).

Heibel et al. is silent as to the wall thickness of the microcapsules. However, Schilling teaches a fabric treating composition comprising microcapsules with a liquid core having a shell thickness of 0.4 to 4 microns (Pg. 1, Lns. 1-10; Pg. 3, Lns. 35-40) (overlapping with sufficient specificity the claimed ranges of 0.001 to 100 microns, 0.005 to 10 microns, and 0.2 to 2.0 microns). Heibel et al. and Schilling are analogous art because they are concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely fabric treating compositions comprising urea-formaldehyde based polymer microcapsules with liquid cores. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the wall thickness of Schilling in the composition of Heibel et al. and would have been motivated to do so because Schilling teaches that such a wall size is critical in ensuring that the capsules are friable, i.e. can be ruptured when attached to fabric to release the benefit agent contained inside (Pg. 1, Lns. 1-10; Pg. 3, Lns. 40-50).

The Examiner recognizes that all of the claimed physical properties are not positively taught by the reference, namely the viscosity of the suspension and the relationship between time and the stability of the viscosity value (instant claims 1-3 and 31). However, the references together render obvious all of the claimed ingredients, process steps, and process conditions of the composition. Therefore, the claimed physical properties would inherently be achieved by the composition as claimed and rendered obvious. If it is the applicant's position that this would not be the case: (1) evidence would need to be presented to support applicant's position; and (2) it would be the Examiner's position that the application contains inadequate disclosure that there is no teaching as to how to obtain the claimed properties with only the claimed ingredients, process steps and process conditions.

Regarding Claim 18: Claim 18 is being interpreted as a product-by-process claim and therefore directed towards the product itself and not the method of making the product. "[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985) [See MPEP 2113].

Regarding Claims 22 and 23: Heibel et al. further teaches adding an additional surfactant in 8.000 wt% ([0055]-[0059] and Table 1).

Regarding Claim 26: Heibel et al. further teaches the composition in a fabric softener (added to a fabric softener) ([0020]).

Regarding Claims 33-35: The Examiner recognizes that all of the claimed physical properties are not positively taught by the reference, namely resulting droplet size of the oil phase of the suspension. However, the references together render obvious all of the claimed ingredients, process steps, and process conditions of the composition. Therefore, the claimed physical properties would inherently be achieved by the composition as claimed and rendered obvious. If it is the applicant's position that this would not be the case: (1) evidence would need to be presented to support applicant's position; and (2) it would be the Examiner's position that the application contains inadequate disclosure that there is no teaching as to how to obtain the claimed properties with only the claimed ingredients, process steps and process conditions.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heibel et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0045447) in view of Newell (US Pat. No. 4,374,125) and Schilling (GB Pat. No. 1,561,389) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hoshi et al. (GB Pub. No. 2,062,570).

Heibel et al. in view of Newell and Schilling render the composition of claim 1 obvious as set forth above.

Heibel et al. does not teach the microcapsules comprised of an acrylic acid copolymer cross-linked with a melamine-formaldehyde pre-condensate. However, Hoshi et al. teaches microcapsules for encapsulating perfumes where the shell is comprised of a melamine-formaldehyde pre-polymer (pre-condensate) membrane with an acrylic acid-styrenesulfonic acid copolymer heated and incorporated within the membrane (cross-linked) (abstract, Pg. 2, Lns. 30-45; Pg. 4, Lns. 15-20; and Claim 1 of Hoshi et al.). Heibel et al. and Hoshi et al. are analogous

art because they are concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely formaldehyde polymer based microcapsules for encapsulating components such as perfumes. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the melamine-formaldehyde pre-polymer (pre-condensate) membrane with an acrylic acid-styrenesulfonic acid copolymer of Hoshi et al. as the polymer for the microcapsule of Heibel et al. and would have been motivated to do so because Hoshi teaches that it allows for encapsulation to be carried out at high concentration without aggregation and the cost of encapsulation is low (Pg. 2, Lns. 20-40).

Claims 13, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heibel et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0045447) in view of Newell (US Pat. No. 4,374,125) and Schilling (GB Pat. No. 1,561,389) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Soper et al. (US Pat. No. 6,106,875).

Heibel et al. in view of Newell and Schilling render the composition of claim 11 obvious as set forth above.

Heibel et al. does not teach the composition where the solvent is mineral oil or has a C log10P of greater than 10. However, Soper et al. teaches diluting (solvating) fragrance oils to be encapsulated with mineral oil (solvent with C log10P greater than 10) (2:45-55). Heibel et al. and Soper et al. are analogous art because they are concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely encapsulation of fragrances. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the mineral oil of Soper et al. with the composition of

Heibel et al. and would have been motivated to do so because Soper et al. teaches that it allows the fragrance to be encapsulated more easily (2:45-55).

Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heibel et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0045447) in view of Newell (US Pat. No. 4,374,125) and Schilling (GB Pat. No. 1,561,389) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Popplewell et al. (US Pub. No. 2005/0112152).

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(I)(1) and § 706.02(I)(2).

Heibel et al. in view of Newell and Schilling render the composition of claim 1 obvious as set forth above.

Heibel et al. does not teach the composition comprising at least 20 weight percent of a sacrificial solvent such as benzyl acetate and n-octanol where the sacrificial solvent diffuses from the inside of the capsule to the outside. However, Popplewell et al. teaches encapsulated fragrances comprising at least 20 weight percent of sacrificial solvent such as benzyl acetate and n-octanol where at least 20 weight percent of the solvent diffuses from the inside of the capsule to the outside ([0070]-[0077] and claim 19 of Popplewell et al.). Heibel et al. and Popplewell et al. are analogous art because they are concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely encapsulating fragrance compounds. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the sacrificial solvent of Popplewell et al. in the composition of Heibel et al. and would have been motivated to do so because Popplewell et al. teaches that the capsules can be prepared in large quantities and can be prepared with out having to encapsulate each specific fragrance ([0079]).

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heibel et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0045447) in view of Newell (US Pat. No. 4,374,125) and Schilling (GB Pat. No. 1,561,389) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Boeckh et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0171246).

Heibel et al. in view of Newell and Schilling render the composition of claim 1 obvious as set forth above.

Heibel et al. does not teach cationicallly modifying the capsules with a cationic polymer. However, Boeckh et al. teaches coating particles with cationic polymers for laundry treatment ([0004], [0008]). Heibel et al. and Boeckh et al. are analogous art because they are concerned

with the same field of endeavor, namely laundry treatment agents. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the cationic polymer treatment of Boeckh et al. with the microcapsules of Heibel et al. and would have been motivated to do so because Boeckh et al. teaches that in general the cationic polymers increase deposition and retention ([0004]).

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heibel et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0045447) in view of Newell (US Pat. No. 4,374,125) and Schilling (GB Pat. No. 1,561,389) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yamato et al. (US Pat. NO. 5,232,769).

Heibel et al. in view of Newell and Schilling render the composition of claim 1 obvious as set forth above. Heibel et al. further teaches the composition comprises vitamins ([0018]).

Heibel et al. does not teach the composition comprising vitamin E. However, Yamato et al. teaches microcapsules for laundry applications comprising vitamin E (1:1-20). Heibel et al. and Yamato et al. are analogous art because they are concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely microencapsulated benefit agents for laundry applications. At the time of the invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the vitamin E of Yamato et al. with the composition of Heibel et al. and would have been motivated to do so because Yamato et al. teaches that the vitamin E improves the physiological conditions of human skin (1:1-20).

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PETER F. GODENSCHWAGER whose telephone number is (571)270-3302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Eashoo can be reached on (571) 272-1197. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. F. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 1796
April 9, 2009

/Harold Y Pyon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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